

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, PO

SUBJ: STANDING NAVAL FORCE ATLANTIC (STANVFORLANT) EXERCISES WITH
PORTUGUESE FORCES

1. BY MCM-27-75 DATED APRIL 29, 1975 (TRANSMITTED BELOW), THE
MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS INVITED THE DPC TO NOTE STANAVFORLANT'S
EXERCISE PROGRAM WITH PORTUGUESE FORCES, WHICH INCLUDES A PORT
VISIT TO LISBON MAY 29-JUNE 2, 1975, AND HAS INVITED THE DPC TO
ENDORSE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE EXERCISE
SHOULD BE HELD AS PLANNED.

2. AMB MENZIES (CANADA) CONTACTED MISSION ON MAY 6 TO CALL ATTEN-
TION TO FACT THAT EXERCISE AND PORT VISIT WOULD COINCIDE WITH
NATO SUMMIT MEETING AND THAT ANTI-NATO ELEMENTS MIGHT USE THIS
OCCASION FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES AND POSSIBLY PROVOKE INCIDENTS
WITH ALLIED NAVAL PERSONNEL ON SHORE LEAVE IN LISBON. MENZIES
REPORTED HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH FRG DCM (BOSS), WHO FAVORED
PROCEEDING, AND WITH AMB PECK (UK) WHO FAVORED A "ROBUST" APPROACH
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TO THE EXERCISE WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, SHOULD GO ON AS PLANNED.
MENZIES ALSO PREFERRED EXERCISE CONTINUE, BUT ASKED IF U.S. HAD
CONSIDERED POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS.

3. INTERNATIONAL STAFF HAS ADVISED THAT LOW-KEY DPC CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION IS PLANNED, WITH SYG ISSUING A PO IN NEAR FUTURE ASKING PERMREPS TO ENDORSE BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO CONDUCT EXERCISE AS PLANNED. WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF OPPOSITION BY ANY DELEGATION.

4. BASED ON FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF SIMILAR STANAVFORLANT EXERCISE ("LOCKED GATE") AND PORT VISIT HELD IN FEB 1975, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAXIMUM PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES, AS AS DIFFICULTIES WE WOULD FACE WITH PORTUGAL AND OTHER ALLIES IF EXERCISE WERE CANCELLED OR DEFERRED, MISSION RECOMMENDS CONTINUING WITH THIS EXERCISE AS WELL. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE EMBASSY LISBON'S VIEWS SHOULD BE A CENTRAL FACTOR IN DEVELOPING U.S. POSITION. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

5. TEXT OF MCM-27-75 FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL, NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SUBJ: STANAVFORLANT/PORTUGUESE FORCES EXERCISE

REFERENCE: CMC-69-75, 19 MARCH 1975(NS)(NOTAL)

1. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, AT ITS MEETING ON 29 APRIL 1975, REVIEWED THE PLANNED EXERCISE OF STANDING NAVAL FORCE ATLANTIC WITH PORTUGUESE NAVAL AND AIR FORCES BETWEEN 26 AND 28 MAY 1975 OFF THE PORTUGUESE COAST, A VISIT TO LISBON FROM 29 MAY TO 2 JUNE AND REFUELING AT PONTA DELGADA ON 6 JUNE. IT IS NOTED THAT, AT THIS TIME, THE FORCE WILL COMPRISE SHIPS FROM CANADA, THE US, THE UK, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND GERMANY AND A PORTUGUESE FRIGATE WHICH IS DUE TO JOIN STANAVFORLANT 14 MAY.

2. IT IS THE VIEW OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE THAT THE EXERCISE SHOULD CONTINUE AS PLANNED. TO FORESTALL ANY LATE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE CONDUCT OF THE EXERCISE, THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IS INVITED TO NOTE THE PROGRAMME AND ENDORSE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE EXERCISE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED AS PLANNED BETWEEN THE APPROPRIATE NATO AND NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITIES. END QUOTE.BRUCE

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